TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY RUSK
(f)

DR Ah...two points..I do hope that we can let Halaby go ahead and have these technical talks with Moscow about the civil air possibility ...in any event.. it would take several months to work it out..and this is one of the easiest ways to keep open a door when we're talking about something that might be of some importance in the future. This agreement was initialled in 1961..but not signed because of the Berlin crisis that summer..we were planning to go ahead with it and I think we perhaps ought to now.

LBJ When do we need to make the decision..

DR Well he would be going over about the 11th of December..

LBJ Give me a note on it tomorrow and let me look at it..I'm trying to appoint this Presidential Commission and make a statement right now. I want to tell you about this Commission.....the Chief Justice, John McCloy, Allen Dulles, Sen. Russell and Sen. Cooper, Cong. Boggs and Cong. Ford.

DR Good..absolutely first class.

LBJ Now..does it worry you that I have more Republicans than Democrats.. Chief Justice is not regarded...McCloy I guess is regarded as a red-hot partisan, is he?

DR Oh no..he's not a partisan. The Chief Justice certainly is not...

LBJ What about Dulles?

DR Dulles...on this kind of an issue I think would not be partisan..I think that would be good.

LBJ OK, my friend.. Thank you.

DR Goodluck.

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